

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

For sake of clarity, the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 19, as amended on February 21, 2003, is reproduced below:

Fig. 5: Regulation of SOS2 expression by salt stress. Plants were treated with 200 mM NaCl (A) or with nutrient solution as a control (B) for the indicated time periods. Total RNA were extracted from roots and shoots, and subjected to Northern blot analysis with ³²P-labeled SOS2 cDNA as probe. Thirty-five micrograms of total RNA was loaded in each lane. Ethidium bromide-stained rRNA bands were used as controls for equal loading.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 18 with the following:

Genetic and Physical Mapping. Genetic mapping with restriction fragment length polymorphism and PCR-based markers was as described (19). Construction of yeast artificial chromosome (YAC) and bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) clone contigs (1) was partly based on information available at <http://www.nucleus.esch.org/protarab/ chrom5.map> and <http://www.kazusa.or.jp/arabi/chr5/map/12-14Mb> publicly available databases. This information is incorporated herein by reference.